

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067550
ORIGIN SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 DEAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00
USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /065 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/,NM RFSLUTZ

APPROVED BY: S/NM: JHLINNE MANN

EUR/SE: EDSMITH

DEA: PBENSINGER (DRAFT)

DEA/AEGBERT

-----055025 191305Z /40

R 160258Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR

REF: (A) STATE 54904, (B) ANKARA 1527

1. SENIOR ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
MATTERS, MATHEA FALCO, AND DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER MET
WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL ON MARCH 10.

2. MS. FALCO REITERATED POINTS THAT USG WAS NOT CRITI-
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PAGE 02 STATE 067550

CIZING GOT PERFORMANCE IN CONTROLLING LICIT POPPY STRAW
PRODUCTION, THAT GOT CONTROL MEASURES SEEMED QUITE EFFEC-
TIVE, THAT PRESS UNFORTUNATELY HIGHLIGHTED 8-LINE COMMENT
ABOUT TURKISH TRAFFICKERS OUT OF 10-PAGE REPORT TO CND ON
INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, AND THAT SHE HOPED TO BE
ABLE TO VISIT TURKEY LATER THIS YEAR AND WOULD WELCOME AN
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE GOT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ITS LICIT

PRODUCTION.

3. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL SAID EVER MORE FREQUENT PRESS COMMENTS ABOUT TURKISH INVOLVEMENT IN ILLICIT HEROIN TRAFFIC TENDED TO REMIND HIS GOVERNMENT OF PRESS CAMPAIGN OF EARLY

70'S WHEN ALL U.S. DRUG ILLS SEEMED TO BE BLAMED ON TURKEY. HE SAID THAT HIS PM HAD ASKED FOR PROOF AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH GOT BEFORE INCLUDING SUCH REMARKS IN THE U.S. REPORT TO THE CND. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN TURKEY WHICH WOULD EXPLOIT SUCH PRESS ACCOUNTS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

4. MS. FALCO AND MR. BENSINGER DISAVOWED ANY INTENTION TO MOUNT A PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TURKEY, RECALLED THAT NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPED BY DEA REGARDING TURKISH NATIONALS WAS REGULARLY AND PROMPTLY SHARED WITH TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE, AND GAVE ESENBEL AN ANNOTATED LIST OF 43 NARCOTICS CASES INVOLVING TURKISH NATIONALS FOR CY 77 AND 78 TO DATE (COPY OF LIST POUCHED TO EMBASSY). LIST INCLUDES CASES DEVELOPED IN EUROPE (MOSTLY GERMANY AND TURKEY) AND U.S. AND CONTAINS NAMES OF TURKISH NATIONALS. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SHARE THIS LIST WITH APPROPRIATE FOMIN OFFICIALS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 067550

5. MR. BENSINGER POINTED OUT THAT A HEROIN LABORATORY HAD BEEN SEIZED IN THE VICINITY OF BASKOY VILLAGE IN KONYA PROVINCE BY TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE AND REGIONAL JANDARMA COMMAND LAST DECEMBER. THIS WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE TURKISH PRESS ON DECEMBER 14, 1977. ADDITIONALLY, HE NOTED THAT ON AUGUST 17, 1977, THE TURKISH PRESS REPORTED A SEIZURE OF 1,500 KILOGRAMS OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE IN ISTANBUL ON AUGUST 16, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY BEING USED BY A SMUGGLING GROUP TO ESTABLISH A HEROIN LABORATORY.

6. DURING DISCUSSION OF THIS LIST WITH ESENBEL, SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT GOT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER STATIONING A NARCOTICS ATTACHE (POLICE) IN GERMANY AS LIAISON WITH BKA AND PERHAPS OTHER WEST EUROPEAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE SIMILARLY PLACED NARCOTICS ATTACHES IN THEIR EMBASSIES IN THAILAND.

7. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT S/NM WOULD INFORM THE TURKISH EMBASSY (WASHINGTON) PERIODICALLY OF TRENDS DISCOVERED IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING THAT AFFECT TURKEY. VANCE

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